



Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, October 23, 2012 DRAFT Meeting Notes

Minneapolis Fourth Police Precinct

NCEC member attendees: Kenneth Brown, Denis Houle, Ishmael Israel, Henry Jimenez, Gregg Massey, Marcea Mariani, Jeffrey Martin, Maria Sarabia, Jeff Strand, Carol Pass and Tessa Wetjen.

NCEC members absent: Latrell Beamon, Doron Clark, Kenya McKnight, Sacido Shaie, and Ali Warsame.

Commission staff: David Rubedor, Howard Blin, Lance Knuckles, Robert Thompson and Cheyenne Erickson.

Guests: Repa Mekha and Terri Thao.

Agenda Item

Content

1.Introduction, Action(s):

& agenda

(Action)

- Consensus to approve October agenda, with the following change:
 - Move agenda item 7 Task Force Reports, to agenda item 4 and move the remaining agenda items down.
- Consensus to approve September 25th meeting notes, [with one correction](#).

2. NRP Policy Board Report

(Informational)

Summary:

- No NRP Policy Board meeting was held due to lack to quorum. The meeting will either be rescheduled for later this month or for the November Meeting.

3. NCR Report

(Informational)

Summary:

- Senior Strategic Plan – Interviews are being held this week to fill the Senior Community Specialist position.
- Voter Engagement – Voter turnout is dropping and the Department is doing work on communicating useful voting information. The department also organized a community meeting with the Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, about 500 community members attended.
- Lila Downs event at East Phillips Cultural Center – This event closed out the Latino Heritage Month that ran from September 15th to October 15th.
- Budget Process – The process is picking up and the final budget adoption will be mid-December.

Commissioner Comments:

- The Lila Downs event at East Phillips Cultural Center was a great success, the neighborhood was happy that it was held at the Cultural center. The neighborhood is also interested in purchasing its own translation equipment.
- What is the status of the Boards and Commissions openings? Do you have any information on the newly created boards?
 - The Boards and Commissions fall cycle closed on Friday, October 19th. Board staff is in the process review the applications, any remaining openings will be reposted online. Staff will send out information on the new boards and commissions to NCEC members.
- Will there be a public engagement process for the new regulatory services department?
 - NCR is unsure and will do follow up with the department.

4. Task Force Reports
(Informational and Discussion)

Summary:

- A. Grievance Committee Report: The Grievance Committee met on September 25th, 2012. Present at the meeting were NCEC Grievance committee members Jeffrey Martin, Chair; Marcea Mariani, and Jeffrey Strand, Hawthorne Area Community Council Staff Alexandra Jasicki and Board Chair Joanne Kelty, Peter Rickmyer and NCR staff member Howard Blin. The Committee heard each of the six grievances one by one, the decisions are as follows:

Grievance One:

The grievance committee sustains Director Rubedor's decision outlined in his September 12, 2012 response regarding HACC's compliance with the Community Participation Program (CPP) regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The grievance committee is encouraged to see added ADA and Equal Opportunity Employment (EOE) compliance measures taken by HACC, which include updating letterhead, adopting changes to HACC bylaws and clarification on their website and communications. We are also encouraged by the steps HACC has taken and will be taking to update Hawthorne Neighborhood Council's facility at 2944 Emerson Avenue North, Minneapolis, to better suit disabled populations. These updates include the addition of a wheelchair ramp at the rear entrance, a widened door opening at the entrance and accessibility features in the restroom.

Grievance Two:

Mr. Rickmyer stated that he withdrew the grievance during the grievance committee hearing, that "HNA intentionally committed fraud by omissions by not informing NCR or NRP the money reimbursement for rent/mortgage was used to occupy a building illegally."

Grievance Three and Grievance Four:

The Grievance Committee upholds Director Rubedor's decision regarding HACC's occupancy of 2944 Emerson Avenue North, Minneapolis. The Grievance Committee recommends that the complainant or other interested persons concerned with issues such as occupancy, valid Certificates of Occupancy, zoning compliance, etc., should be further be directed to other appropriate City departments.

Grievance Five:

Mr. Rickmyer indicated that this grievance has been resolved.

Grievance Six:

The Grievance Committee sustains the decision of Director Rubedor. The Grievance Committee recommends to the complainant and other persons, that for issues concerning alleged bullying, intimidation, or any unwanted person-to-person contact, outside of neighborhood business functions, and thus outside the scope of CPP agreements, be directed toward the appropriate civil authorities (e.g. City Hall-Municipal Building Security Staff, Hennepin County Sheriff, Minneapolis Police Department, etc.).

Additional Recommendation:

The Grievance Committee recommends that the NCR Department and City Council revise future CPP Guidelines to require that for

all future CPP agreements with neighborhood organizations, that they provide both financial and informational summaries of facilities used or occupied by the organizations, should any CPP funds be used toward occupancy.

The Grievance Committee further recommends that the NCR Director obtain legal clarification from the Minneapolis City Attorney as to the minimal requirements (e.g. suffered harm, residency within a defined neighborhood, meeting membership requirements) to be met by persons who seek to file grievances and/or grievance appeals under the CPP Guidelines.

- B. One Minneapolis Fund: Still waiting on approval from the City Council Committee of the Whole, it has been pushed back to the November 8th CoW meeting. NCR staff commented that the reason that this item has been pushed back is due to the busy budget season in the Council Committees.
- C. Boards and Commissions Diversity Task Force: The Task Force received a summary of the current boards and commissions that are in existence in order to get a better idea of the participation. The Task Force is also looking to focus on issue based or priorities and break down which boards and commissions are most relevant to diversity efforts. The Task Force will compile a list of recommendations. Commissioner Mariani has joined this committee.
- D. Bylaws Task Force: The subcommittee has yet to meet to finalize work, the group is scheduling the last meeting and plans to meet with the NCR director before they report to the final results to the committee. It was also noted that the proposed changes to the bylaws need to be introduced, and then at the following months meeting they can be adopted.

Commissioner Comments:

- If the bylaws aren't presented at the November meeting, the commission should look for a new approach in order to get the bylaws passed.

Summary:

- Repa Mehka from Nexus Community Partners attended the meeting as a guest to discuss the Blue Print for Equity in more detail with the Commission. The Blue Print for Equity will bridge the gap from the work that is currently happening in the Community with the Commission and explore opportunities where the NCEC might play roles to help carry the charge forward. The plan has been built intentionally as a skeleton because it requires the public's participation. As it stands it does reflect the work that the Commission is already doing. Repa took a look at the Community Participation Program Guidelines and compared them to the goals of the Blue Print and found that there were a lot of similarities. If Blue Print is carried out correctly it will be an asset to your work in public participation, etc.

Commissioner Comments:

- It would be helpful to have an outline of what is being discussed. It would also be helpful to hear if there were any times in which you've received pushback on efforts on diverse involvement and what you've done.
- In terms of the end product, is it for the underrepresented

**5. Blue Print
for Equity
(Discussion)**

community to have impact or influence on City/neighborhood process and work?

- NCR staff responded that this is meant for underrepresented groups to have an impact on the City's and Neighborhood Organizations work.
- It seems that this is an unfair method of broad participation because then the work is turned over to City staff who may not represent the Community.
- Would like to see documentation so we don't start from the beginning.
- This is exciting work and is a piece of accountability; there are opportunities to look at strengths and opportunities to build a place on sharing.

Action(s):

- NCR will provide questions to get the Commission before the next meeting.
- The November meeting will be a 1 hour regular meeting for regular business then the Commission will adjourn to a 1 hour working session.

6. Community Participation Program Update
(Discussion)

Summary:

- NCR staff explained that Neighborhood Annual Reports were enjoyable to read and neighborhoods are doing creative work and holding interesting engaging activities. All of the Community Participation Program Submissions and Annual Reports (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/cpp/WCMS1P-095810>).
- NCR Staff also discussed the new Neighborhood Priority Plans; they are a new concept and learning process for everyone. We hope to learn from the people we are working with. The goal is to identify general outcomes and develop partnerships.

Commissioner Comments:

- Will these reports be incorporated into the Blue Print for Equity process?
 - Yes, they will be.
- Appreciative of the fact that the City is being open minded with this process and willing to receive feedback.
- In page 3 of your report, the word "may" is used, should it read shall?
 - Staff will need to look at how these NPP's are impacting existing policy that is being adopted. Staff will still need to clarify what triggers what level of review. The expectation for neighborhoods is that they will be submitted.
- What happens if neighborhoods have trouble meeting the priorities is there a method that we have to assess neighborhoods?

7. ADA Plan
(Discussion)

Summary:

- NCR staff explained that the department is developing an ADA Policy that will help neighborhoods increase their awareness with the ADA Law and provide resources and training to help neighborhoods be compliant with the law as a 501c3 organization. The Policy will be adopted by the NRP Policy Board and in addition to providing training and resources to neighborhoods it will hand ADA related grievances to the Civil Rights department. The NRP Policy Board will approve this

Policy to go out for a 45 day review period for comment and feedback.

- The NCEC's role is this is to help communicate the information out to neighborhoods. We would also like to receive consensus from the NCEC that the documents is good to go for the Policy Board to send out for a 45 day review period.

Commissioner Comments:

- Will the trainings be open to other partner organizations?
 - Yes, it is important to build awareness throughout the City.
- Any organizations that receive government funding must be ADA compliant; this could be a broader start for other organizations too.
- Neighborhood Organizations fall under the ADA Title II guidelines, some other organizations might fall under ADA Title III guidelines.
- Glad to hear that the Civil Rights department will be handling grievances.
- Commissioner Brown offered to give ADA training to other Commissioners if anyone was interested.

Action(s):

- The Commission reached consensus to refer this ADA plan back to the NRP Policy Board to send out for a 45-day review period.
- Commissioner Jimenez is still working on organizing District 6 meetings. He will also be at the Youth Link fundraiser at Pittsburgh Blue on October 29th.
- Commissioner Brown has been attending his neighborhood's meetings and participating in community events.

**8.
Commissioner
Open Forum**

Adjourn